



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

April 14, 2020

OFFICE OF
LAND AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clyburn:

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 2020, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, supporting the Brownfields Grant application from the city of Columbia, South Carolina. I appreciate your interest in the Brownfields Program and your support of this application.

Since its inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields Program has grown into a proven, results-oriented program that has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed, and managed. EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The Program is an excellent example of the success that is possible when people of all points of view work together to improve the environment and their communities.

Last year's application process was highly competitive with EPA evaluating more than 420 grant applications. From these applications, the EPA announced the selection of approximately 150 grants.

The EPA's selection criteria for grant applications are available in the *Application Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants (October 2019)*, posted on our program website at www.epa.gov/brownfields. Each application will be carefully reviewed and evaluated by a selection panel that applies these objective criteria in this highly competitive program. The grant application submitted by the city of Columbia will be given every consideration.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at snyder.raquel@epa.gov or at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Wright
Assistant Administrator